

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: EA/VN:JRBULLINGTON:BK

APPROVED BY: EA/VN:RHWENZEL

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R 222016Z JAN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 013913

FOLLOWING REPEAT SINGAPORE 230 ACTION SECSTATE 18 JAN

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 0230

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SN, VS

SUBJECT: BACKGROUND MATERIAL ON VIETNAM CEASE-FIRE
IMPLEMENTATION

REF: DEPT A-10423, DEC 21, 1973 RECEIVED EMBASSY
JAN 8, 1974

1. REFERENCE AIRGRAM FORWARDED BACKGROUND MATERIAL ON NVN VIOLATIONS OF CEASE-FIRE IMPLEMENTATION FOR OUR BACKGROUND USE WITH HOST COUNTRY AND LOCAL PRESS. ALTHOUGH REF AIRGRAM IS USEFUL IN PROVIDING DETAILED ACCOUNT OF NVN VIOLATIONS, IT HAS ONLY TWO BRIEF PARAGRAPHS ON GVN PERFORMANCE IN RESISTING NVN SUBVERSION/AGGRESSION AND IN BUILDING NATIONAL STRENGTH. IT COULD LEAVE IMPRESSION NVN GAINING UPPER HAND.

2. GOS AND PROBABLY SOME OTHER SEA GOVERNMENTS ARE ALREADY CONVINCED THAT NVN IS VIOLATING PARIS AGREEMENT,
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BUT ARE WORRIED THAT GVN WILL NOT BE ABLE TO COPE WITH NVN SUBVERSION OR NEW OFFENSIVE. IF THERE IS TO BE EVEN

AN OUTSIDE CHANCE THAT GOS WILL ENCOURAGE SVN OR ATTEMPT EXERT RESTRAINING INFLUENCE ON HANOI, WE HAVE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT GVN HAS FIGHTING CHANCE TO MAKE IT WITHOUT REINTRODUCING US ARMED FORCES. (GOS IS CONVINCED PUBLIC OPINION IN US WILL NOT PERMIT RETURN OF US FORCES OR RENEWED US BOMBING.) GOS CURRENTLY BELIEVES GVN MAY BE ABLE TO COPE WITH NVN MILITARY THREAT, BUT THAT IT IS FAILING IN ITS EFFORTS TO WIN POLITICAL STRUGGLE WITH VC.

3. THEREFORE, IT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL HERE TO HAVE ADDITIONAL MATERIAL SPELLING OUT GVN SUCCESSES NOT ONLY IN COPING WITH RENEWED NVN MILITARY ATTACKS, BUT ALSO IN BUILDING ECONOMY, EFFECTIVELY ADMINISTERING AREAS UNDER ITS CONTROL AND DEVELOPING WIDER POLITICAL SUPPORT AMONG PEOPLE. FOR SUCH MATERIAL TO BE CREDIBLE, IT WOULD HAVE TO INCLUDE INFORMATION ON GVN REVERSES AND INADEQUACIES AS WELL AS SUCCESSES. MAIN THRUST WOULD OF COURSE HAVE TO BE POSITIVE.
CRONK UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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